THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) Pendinl a discussion in Parliament Government has not taken a final view on the compromise proposals of Director General GATT in respect of Uruguay Round negotiations including Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). Government is not aware of any proposal to extend the transition period from 10 years to 15 years. Consequently, the question of Government having conveyed India's willingness to accept a TRIPs agreement with a 15 years transition period does not arise.

Article 31 of the draft TRIPs agreement pertains to 'other use without authorisation of the right holder', which term includes both compulsory licensing and government use. The Article covers all areas of patentability and is not limited to drugs, pharmaceuticals, food and chemicals. No limitations have been placed on the grounds on which such authorization can be granted. However, there are strict conditions attached to the grant of such authorization.

The Indian patent law would have to be amended if proposals contained in Article 31 were to be accepted. The effect of these changes would be to provide greater protection to all right holders by eliminating automatic licences of right and making compulsory licensing subject to strict conditions.

Several developing and developed countries have found the proposals of DG GATT to be less than fully satisfactory. Several others have indicated their willingness to proceed further in the negotiations on the basis of these proposals. Most countries which have pronounced themselves on these proposals have done so primarily on the basis of the draft Agreement on agriculture. India has informally indicated to the principal trading countries and to DG GATT its intention to seek improvements and changes in the text.

ITPO's proposal for exhibition centre at Hyderabad

1911. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Trade Pro tion Organisation (ITPO) has subsubmitted a proposal to Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of a permanent exhibition centre at Hyderabad on the lines of Pragati Maidan in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what is the present State of the proposal and the reasons for delay in setting up the exhibition centre?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had requested for establishment of a Trade Fair Centre for the Southern Region at Hyderabad, by ITPO. This proposal has examine and ITPO has expressed their inability to undertake the work of setting up the above said exhibition complex, maintaining and managing its operations. However, ITPO has agreed to provide its know-how expertise and experience to the Government of Andhra Pradesh on commercial basis for undertaking this project on their own.

अरब देशों को बीड़ी का निर्यात

1912. **श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ अरब देशों को बीड़ी का निर्यात किया जा रहा है; और

(ख) सरकार द्वारा बीड़ी को लोकप्रिय बनाने और विदेशों को इसके निर्यात में तेजी लाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) बीड़ियों का निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए तम्बाकू बोर्ड द्वारा किए गए उपायों में ये शामिल हैं--अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मेलों तथा प्रदर्शनियों में बीड़ियों के विभिन्न ब्राण्ड प्रदर्शित करना, व्यापार प्रतिनिधिमण्डलों के दौरों के समय थ्रस्ट बाजारों का पता लगाना, बाजार सर्वेक्षण करना और विदेशी स्रोतों से प्राप्त निर्यात पूछताछों को बीड़ी निर्यातकों तक पहुंचाना। किन्तु बीड़ियों का निर्यात बढ़ाना कठिन हो रहा है क्योंकि पश्चिम एशिया के देशों में बीड़ियों का धूम्रपान अधिकांशतया भारतीय जाति के लोगों द्वारा किया जाता है।

Structural Changes in MMTC

1913. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the Financial Express of 29th June, 1992 captioned "MMTC effecting major structural changes" in the functioning of the organisation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indacting the steps taken for improvement of quality management so as to be able to survive in the competitive world market; and

(c) what are the proposed new product lines in which the Corporation will engage itself to increase the volume of business and steps likely to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MMTC is re-organising itself into specific profit centres consequent upon the decanalisation of a number of items under the new Export and Import Policy so as to improve the quality of management including identifying new markets/products for promotion of exports in the competitive world market and has registered itself with the Confederation of India Industries (CII) for quality improvement and training requirements etc.

(c) Besides traditional items, new thrust is being given to export of agricultural products, pesticides and insecticides, agro chemicals, industr chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals forest products biotechnology, marine products cottage & handloom industry, textiles including apparels, leather garments and other leather products, leasing and hire-purchases, warehousing, off-shore trading, merchanising trade and shipping. Thrust and penetration is being increased on existing lines like gem & jewellery, fertilizers, minerals and metals and engineering products and projects.

Creation of new Export Processing Zones

1914. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee at the industry level or Government level was set-up to study and recommend creation of new Export Processing Zones in the Country, if so, the details of the places/cases studied by the said Committee and the places where Export Processing Zones have already been set-up and proposed to be set-up in the future; and

(b) the status of the report of the committee and action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) A Committee was appointed to examine and propose an alternative model for development of Export Processing Zones (EPZ). The report